AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

9. (Currently Amended) A device for axial stopping of a rotor, in particular a rotor of an electric motor, said rotor (5) having a support shaft (4) defining a rotation axis (4a) and two end faces (4b) transverse to said rotation axis (4a), the device comprising

at least one ~~trust~~ thrust unit for exerting a repulsive force on at least one of said end faces (4b) to axially stop said support shaft (4), said at least one ~~trust~~ thrust unit comprising:

an abutment element (10) defining an abutment surface (8) adjacent to said at least one of said end faces (4b),

fluid-emitting means (9) for forming a layer of fluid between said abutment surface (8) and said at least one of said end faces (4b), said layer of fluid maintaining an interstice (1a) between said abutment surface (8) and said at least one of said end faces (4b) and exerting said repulsive force,

wherein said abutment element (10) comprises a foil element having at least one through hole (11) for passage of said fluid.

10. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said fluid-emitting means ~~9)~~ comprise a connection member (16) fastened to said foil element and a fluid-feeding pipe (13) removably connectable with said connection member (16), said connection member (16) having at least one through passage in communication with said at least one through hole (11).

11. (Previously Added) A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said connection member (16) is arranged on a side of said foil element opposite to said at least one of said end faces (4b), and wherein said at least one through passage is coaxial with said at least one through hole (11).

12. (Previously Added) A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said fluid-emitting means (9) comprise means for feeding air under pressure.

13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) A balancing machine for a rotor, said rotor having a support shaft (4) defining a rotation axis (4a) and two end faces (4b) transverse to said rotation axis (4a), the machine comprising:

means (3) for rotatably supporting said shaft (4),

means (6) for rotating said rotor (5) with said shaft (4), and

a device (1) for axial stopping of said rotor (5), said device comprising at least one thrust unit for exerting a repulsive force on at least one of said end faces (4b) to axially stop said shaft (4), said at least one thrust unit comprising:

an abutment element (10) defining an abutment surface (8) adjacent to said at least one of said end faces (4b), and

fluid-emitting means (9) for forming a layer of fluid, and maintaining an interstice (1a), between said abutment surface (8) and said at least one of said end faces (4b), said layer of fluid generating said repulsive force,

~~machine as claimed in claim 13,~~ wherein said abutment element (10) comprises a foil element having at least one through hole (11) in communication with said fluid-emitting means (9) for forming said layer of fluid and maintaining said interstice (1a).

15. (Currently Amended) A machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein said fluid-emitting means (9) comprise a connection member (16) fastened to said foil element and a fluid-feeding pipe (13) removably connected with said connection member (16), said connection member (16) having at

least one through passage in communication with said at least one through hole (11).

16. Cancelled.